

**REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 12, 2018**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 12, 2018, beginning at 3:30 PM at the Edward Pope Conference Center. Mayor Ames Barnett presided.

Present were Mayor Barnett and Council members Armour, Armour, Cullars, Mahoney, Scarborough and Tutt. Also present were City Administrator Bailey, City Clerk Danner and City Attorney Nelson.

Visitors present are listed in the minutes of the Work Session held on March 12, 2018.

The meeting was opened in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES APPROVED:** On motion by T. Armour, second by Scarborough, council approved 6 to 0 the minutes of previous meetings as presented.

**AGENDA APPROVED:** On motion by R. Armour, second by Cullars, council approved 6 to 0 the meeting agenda as presented.

**MAYOR'S TOPICS:** Mayor Barnett reminded those present of the Town Hall meeting to follow the regular meeting with representatives from Electric Cities of Georgia.

Mayor Barnett asked for council approval for the appointment of Council member Cullars to the Parks and Recreation Board. On motion by R. Armour, second by Scarborough, council approved appointment 6 to 0.

Mayor Barnett advised of the awarding of a \$612,000 CHIP Housing grant. This grant has two parts: \$360,000 for construction of four new homes on Norman Street and \$240,000 for re-hab of homes to be handled through Hands on Washington. Barnett did advise that this grant will follow DCA guidelines and further that a committee will decide on the recipients of the grant funds.

**ATTORNEY COMMENTS:** City Attorney Nelson presented to council an amendment to City Ordinance Section 6-72 to allow for out of town caterers for events serving alcohol. On motion by R. Armour, second by Scarborough, council approved resolution to amend Ordinance Section 6-72 6 to 0. Resolution follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTION 6-72 OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, GEORGIA, CODE OF ORDINANCES**

WHEREAS, the City of Washington desires to amend Section 6-72 of the Code of ordinances to allow caterers holding licenses from other local government jurisdictions to serve alcohol at catered functions within the City; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Washington as follows:

- 1) Section 6-72(b). – Off-premises of alcoholic beverage for catered functions. Of the Code of Ordinances shall be amended to read as follows:
  - (b) Any applicant who holds a license by the city under the terms and conditions set forth in Chapter 6 to sell malt beverages or wine by the drink for consumption on the premises may be issued an off-premises license that authorizes such applicant to sell malt beverages or wine by the drink off-premises and in connection with an authorized catered function. Any applicant not licensed by the city who possesses a valid license from a jurisdiction within the State of Georgia to sell malt beverages or wine by the drink for consumption on the premises may be issued a license that authorizes such applicant to sell malt beverages or wine by the drink at an authorized catered function upon presentation of a copy of such license from the applicant's original issuing jurisdiction. For the purposes of this section, the term "authorized catered function" may include a function held inside a publicly or privately owned building or structure or a function held outside such a building or structure that is located within the city limits of the city.
- 2) All portions of this Code in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.
- 3) The foregoing Ordinance was adopted on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018, by the voted of 6 "yea" and 0 "nay" and 0 abstained.

City Attorney Nelson also presented to council a proposed amendment to the City Charter by Homerule in regards to the matter of frequency of council members pay. On motion by R. Armour, second by

Scarborough, council approved resolution 3-3-1. Council members Cullars, Mahoney and Tutt voted against the motion. Mayor Barnett voted for the motion, breaking the tie vote. Resolution follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTION 7 OF THE MUNICIPAL CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, GEORGIA

WHEREAS, OCGA 36-35-3 grants the governing authority of each municipal corporation the legislative power to amend its municipal charter; and

WHEREAS, the City of Washington desires to amend Section 7 of the Municipal Charter of the City to allow for compensation for elected officials to be paid in concurrence with the City employee payroll schedule;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Washington as follows:

- 1) Section 7. Compensation of mayor and council. Of the Municipal Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

The mayor of the City of Washington, Georgia, shall receive an annual salary of \$7,200.00 to be paid in equal payments at the same interval as established for payroll for city employees, and each of the councilmembers of the said City of Washington, Georgia, shall receive an annual salary of \$3,600.00 to be paid in equal payment at the same interval as established for payroll for city employees, said salaries to be paid out of the city treasury. The mayor and council shall receive an additional \$100.00 per month if he/she has completed 120 hours of certification from the Georgia Municipal Association. The mayor and any member of council shall also be paid any travel or other expense incurred on behalf of the city.

- 2) Pursuant to OCGA 36-35-3, the proposed amendment shall be published in the official organ of Wilkes County once a week for three weeks within a period of 60 days immediately preceding its final adoption. The notice shall state that a copy of the proposed amendment is on file in the City Clerk's office and in the office of the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court of Wilkes County.
- 3) Pursuant to OCGA 36-35-5, upon completion of publication, a copy of the amendment, a copy of the publicized notice, and an affidavit of a duly authorized representative of the newspaper in which the notice was published shall be filed with the Secretary of State's office and in the office of the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court of Wilkes County.

**TEMPORARY POURING LICENSE:** City Clerk Danner presented a request from the Wilkes County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited for a Temporary Pouring license for an event to be held on April 27, 2018 at the Pope Conference Center. Council approved request 6 to 0.

**COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

TUTT: Council member Tutt asked about the status of the Fire and Public Works shop buildings. Tutt was advised that bids for the Fire Department will be opened on March 14, 2018, and then evaluated by Clifton Construction. At the Public Works shop the grading has been completed and the concrete work will be bid separately. It was noted that prison labor will be used at the Fire Department which will save money on the proposed cost estimates.

Tutt expressed concern with the current Public Safety contract and the amount of crime in his district, saying there had been 5 murders in the last four years in District 1, all victims African-American and all black on black crime. A meeting with county and city officials will be scheduled before the April deadline for contract negotiations.

Tutt expressed concern with no creation of new revenues. The recent announcement of Canfor and the 120 jobs it will create was good news, but the city will have to bid on its electric load.

Tutt also asked about recent "talk" of consolidating the city/county governments. Attorney Nelson outlined the process for consolidation of governments.

Mahoney also advised that he would like to have a Bidding Policy that all contracts must come before council for approval. There is currently a \$100,000 contract limit that the City Administrator may approve. City Attorney Nelson advised that he would prepare some information on different Bidding Policies to present at the next meeting of council.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR TOPICS:** City Administrator Bailey presented to council a resolution to authorize application for the CDBG Phase III sewer rehab project grant. All areas of this grant would be in District 1. This grant would also require a match. If application is for the sewer line project only it would be a \$630,000 grant with a required \$72,000 match; if the application is for the sewer line and lift station project then the grant would be \$750,000 with a \$366,600 match. After discussion, council concurred in not applying for the grant at this time.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** City Administrator Bailey presented to council necessary budget amendments resulting from action council took at a March 2, 2018 called meeting in lowering the current electric and water rates for Berry Plastics and also a re-classification of SPLOST funds from fund 320 to 321. On motion by R. Armour, second by Scarborough, council approved amendments 6 to 0. A copy of the amendments is contained in the minutes file in the office of the City Clerk. Budget Resolution follows: WHEREAS, the City Council approved a budget for fiscal year 2018 for the City of Washington in December, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the budget requires adjustment from time to time as circumstances change; and

WHEREAS, these adjustments maintain a balanced budget for all funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the adjustments to the budget listed on "Attachment A", attached hereto and made a part of this resolution is hereby adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

**UTILITY ACCOUNTS/FEES:** On motion by Tutt, second by Cullars, council approved 6 to 0 to charge a 7% penalty on accounts not paid by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month, to discontinue service to all accounts not having a \$0 balance at 5 PM of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month following its due date, to charge an after-hours reconnection fee of \$50 for residential customers and \$100 for commercial customers and further that this policy changes will take effect 60 days after approval.

**POPE CENTER BOOKING POLICY:** On motion by T. Armour, second by R. Armour, to amend the Pope Center Booking policy as presented. After discussion, Mahoney made a motion to table this matter until a Pope Center Committee meeting can be held, second by Cullars, council voted 3-3-1 to table this matter. Voting against the motion were council members Armour, Armour and Scarborough. Mayor Barnett voted for the motion, breaking the tie vote. A committee meeting will be scheduled and will also address the request for use of Pope Center grounds for a Labor Day event sponsored by Jackie Lewis.

**JOB DESCRIPTION/LEAD MECHANIC/SHOP MANAGER:** City Administrator Bailey requested council approval of a job description for classification for a Lead Mechanic/Shop Manager position. Job description prefers a certified mechanic and is assigned classification of 19A starting at \$18.95 per hour. On motion by Scarborough, second by T. Armour, council approved job description and classification 4 to 2. Council members Mahoney and Tutt voted against the motion.

**USE OF SQUARE:** On motion by Scarborough, second by Mahoney, council approved 6 to 0 the use of the square by the Optimist Club on April 21, 2018.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On motion by Mahoney, second by Tutt, council approved 6 to 0 meeting adjournment at 5:10 PM.

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MAYOR

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CLERK